

## ANSWERS TO TECHNICAL PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

## A. MANAGEMENT APPROACH

1. Please discuss potential political conflicts which might arise from the funding of this project in a tobacco producing state. Please discuss how the coalition and ASSIST staff might address them.

No political conflicts are expected to arise specifically due to the funding of Project ASSIST in South Carolina. However, project activities will present a number of challenges for working with politicians representing tobacco-producing constituents and communities. Smoking prevention and control advocates have success with these lawmakers in the recent passage of the South Carolina Clean Indoor Air Act. For example, the Clean Indoor Air Coalition was able to gain the support of Representative John Snow, who represents the largest tobacco constituency in the state. He not only supported the Clean Indoor Air Act as a significant public health measure, but wrote a letter to his fellow House members encouraging their support as well. Support was also gained from Senator Bud Long, who with Rep. Snow, also serves on the Tobacco Advisory Commission of the South Carolina General Assembly. Through working with these and other legislators, DHEC and ACS staff, as well as many members of the coalition, have valuable experience in the legislative arena. It is important to remember that most citizens of South Carolina are non-smokers and that the coalition has access to many of these people: our strength is in numbers as the coalition can serve to mobilize non-smokers to more actively influence legislation and policies in this state.

2. Please provide a brief description of the basis for choosing the target groups to receive intensive intervention.

Target groups for intensive intervention were chosen with two major criteria in mind, high prevalence of tobacco use and some means of access to the population. The basis for choosing each target group is as follows:

- a. Ethnic Minorities: The black population makes up 30.5% of the population, or approximately 1,067,500 citizens. Blacks represent 97.3% of the state's minority population. It is well known that tobacco companies have been concentrating recently on targeting minorities and black women in particular. The burden of disease and death disproportionately affects minorities in this state. Premature mortality is much greater among minorities for heart disease, cancers, strokes and COPD. SC's minority citizens cannot afford to continue to carry the present burden

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